

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended, and claims 4, 12 and 20 have been canceled.

Applicant believes that this amendment addresses the Examiner's rejection and that any changes do not introduce new matter into the specification, limit the scope of the claims or result in any prosecution history estoppel.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner noted that claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant respectfully notes that the independent claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter. The claims are thus in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC S. 102 and 103

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection for the same reasons noted above. Additionally, there is also no motivation to combine these references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

The required fees are enclosed. No additional fees are required for additional claims. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

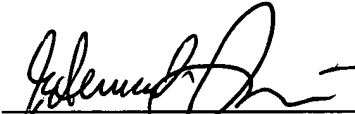
If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (323) 654-8218. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: January 10, 2005

By

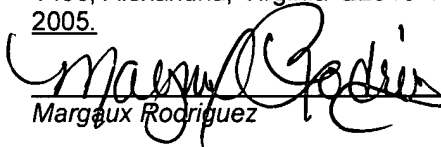


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 10, 2005.



Margaux Rodriguez

January 10, 2005